



City of Robbinsdale Newsletter

Website: www.robbinsdalemn.com

4100 Lakeview Avenue North • Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422-2280 • Phone: 763-537-4534 • Spring 2010

2010 EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring/Summer Events:

- *March 27: Spring Egg Hunt (Kids 12 & under)
- *March 27: NW Suburban Remodeling Fair
- *May 1: Earth/Arbor Day
- *May 22: Vehicle Fair
- *July 8 thru 11: Whiz Bang Days
- *July 29: Pet & Wheel Parade
- *August 3: National Night Out
- *August 6: Wet & Wild Water Day
- *August 14: Police/Fire Open House

Late Summer/Fall/Winter Events:

- *Aug or Sept: Primary Election TBD
- *September 13: Main Street Meet & Greet
- *September: HORCF Oktoberfest TBD
- *October 29: Monster Mash
- *October 30: Spooktacular
- *November 2: General Election
- *December 7: Christmas Tree Lighting

Want to be kept informed of these and other City events? Sign-up for Robbinsdale's e-Subscribe. Just log on to: www.robbinsdalemn.com.

ROBBINSDALE CITY BUDGET ADOPTED

The budget adopted in December planned for the Governor's \$504,000 take back of certified Local Government Aid ("unallotment"). The Governor's first 2010-11 budget proposal included an additional revenue cut of over \$581,000 continuing for 2 years. The City's operational budget by major category is listed to the right. These are net costs (associated fees have been subtracted). As the Legislative Session moves forward, we will be making difficult decisions regarding elimination of services people have come to expect.

Revenues from RC Liquor in Robin Center will continue to be used for updating equipment in parks.

Department	\$ Amount	Percentage
City Council	141,450	2%
Legal	131,956	2%
Adm/Elections	268,177	4%
Assessing	160,573	2%
Finance	307,628	5%
Community Development	151,357	2%
Police	2,840,719	42%
Fire	598,156	9%
Recreation	356,515	5%
Engineering/Inspections	140,629	2%
Streets/Parks/Trees	1,698,734	25%

ROBBINSDALE'S POINT OF SALE

The Point of Sale ordinance was adopted in 2009 and is intended to identify potentially hazardous issues and resolve them when homes are sold, which sometimes would not be obvious to many homeowners. A number of residents have acknowledged the value of the program as it acquaints them with many aspects of their home that they were unaware of or took for granted. The inspection is required of homes that are in foreclosure as well, which identifies and addresses problems that would otherwise be continually passed from one owner to the next. From a broader perspective, the Point of Sale inspection program is one method of preserving the overall health of housing in the City. For further information, please call 763-531-1269 or go to www.robbinsdalemn.com.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AT ROBBINSDALE CITY HALL Wednesdays & Thursdays* February 3 through April 15

AARP Tax-Aide will once again be providing free tax help at City Hall for taxpayers with low and middle-income, with special attention to age 60 and older. AARP tax help at City Hall will now be every **Wednesday from 9 am until noon** and every **Thursday from 1 pm until 4 pm**. (*Previous years AARP was at City Hall on Monday mornings but has now changed to Thursday afternoons.)



EARTH/ARBOR DAY

Saturday, May 1st 9:00 am,
Lee Park, 3738 Lee Ave N

Robbinsdale combines its Arbor Day Celebration and Adopt-A-Park annual park clean-up with the annual watershed clean-up. Help us plant a tree and learn about tree health. Go to our website or check the *Sun Post* for details.

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Minneapolis, MN

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

ECRWSS

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Census 2010

Every 10 years as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, a nation-wide census is conducted in order to count every person living in the United States. It is important to count all of our citizens as this data is used for determining legislative representation as well as allocation of federal aid and other forms of financial assistance.

Census forms will be mailed or delivered to households beginning in March. *Counting every one of our citizens is essential to ensure that Robbinsdale receives the proper funding from the state and federal governments.*



Enjoy Robbinsdale City Band throughout the summer months

www.robbinsdalecityband.org



2010 ELECTION INFORMATION



Robbinsdale's City Council Ward 3 and Ward 4 seats are up for election this year. The 2010 filing dates for office may change because the Legislature is currently considering moving the Primary Election Date from September 14 to August 10. If this change takes place, the dates for filing for office would begin in May. Once the dates are known for sure, the information will be placed on the City's website. If you want to be kept updated on the filing for office and Primary Election dates, **sign up for the City's e-Subscribe** to receive Current News.

Support Your Local Businesses

With the economic downturn over the last year or so makes it even more important that residents support local businesses to keep them here in Robbinsdale. Whenever possible if an item you are shopping for can be found here, rather than going elsewhere, consider buying in Robbinsdale. Our local businesses play an important part in our community and rely on resident patronage.

SPRING EGG HUNT

Once again the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its Spring Egg Hunt for children 12 years and under with prizes provided by the Robbinsdale local merchants and organizations. (Remember to come rain or snow—just think sunshine!) The event will be held on **Saturday, March 27, 2010, 1:00 p.m.** at Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Avenue North.

Waste Management Yard Waste Pick-up begins again in April.
***Note: New State Law requires Twin Cities area residents to use compostable bags for yard waste.* See back page for details.**



CLEAN WATER UPDATE

GREEN UP YOUR LAWN, NOT YOUR LAKES AND RIVERS

Remember that the choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affect water quality in our lakes and rivers.

With the passing of another winter, many residents like to give their lawns a 'kick start' to the growing season by adding fertilizer. After rains, some of the fertilizer you apply to your lawn can wash into the storm sewer system and end up in our lakes and rivers. Many commercially available fertilizers contain phosphorous, an element that stimulates algae growth in our lakes and rivers and can turn these waterways green. Bags of fertilizer typically display an N-P-K ratio (a ratio of Nitrogen (N) Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) contained within the fertilizer). When selecting a fertilizer for your lawn, make sure that the N-P-K ratio displays a 0 value for the P, e.g. 22-0-12.

To further protect our waterways, the City has in place a Phosphorous Free Fertilizer ordinance. This ordinance helps the City manage and protect our natural water resources enjoyed by residents of our City and the surrounding area. The ordinance requires homeowners and commercial lawn services use fertilizer with no phosphorous. The only exceptions are for newly established lawn areas during the first growing season, or for lawns that have been confirmed as being below phosphorous levels established by the University of Minnesota Extension Services. Most Robbinsdale lawns are naturally high in phosphorous and can be maintained with phosphorous free fertilizer. Please make the right choice for our natural environment when selecting your fertilizers.

CONSIDER A RAINGARDEN

As a point of interest in your yard, have you thought about installing a rain garden? The City will be hosting a workshop that will be conducted by *Metro Blooms* on **Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Robbinsdale Public Safety Building, 4101 Hubbard Ave N.** At this workshop you can learn about the benefits of a raingarden and how to make one at your home. Learn to create a beautiful raingarden to attract birds and butterflies and to manage rain water where it lands. *Metro Blooms* will present a fast-paced 3-hour workshop to get you from the idea phase to detailed planning. Learn how to design and install rain gardens, effectively use native plants, and employ eco-friendly lawn care practices. Landscape Design Assistants and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer individual questions about garden layout, plant selection, and to assist with personal raingarden designs. The cost to attend the workshop is \$10 per household (limit two members).

Options to register for the April 17th workshop are online with a credit card at www.metroblooms.org, by sending a \$10 check payable to *Metro Blooms* to: *Raingarden Workshop Registration, PO Box 17099, Minneapolis MN 55417*, or by calling 651-699-2426.

If you have any comments, would like further information on these articles, or would like to find out more about stormwater in general, please contact our Public Works Director/City Engineer, Richard McCoy, at ☎763-531-1260 or at rmccoy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

There are two options available to homestead. Either come in to City Hall to apply for Homestead, or download the application online at www.robbinsdalemn.com. Once you have reached the Robbinsdale web page, go to the *Property Information* tab and click on *Filing for Homestead*. To file for homestead simply print out the application, fill it out, and mail it to Robbinsdale City Hall along with copies of your Deed, Certificate of Real Estate Value, and Driver's License.

ATTENTION U.S. ARMED SERVICE PERSONNEL (Who may be called to active duty)

If you OWN and OCCUPY your home and have been called to active duty in the Armed Forces, there are provisions that allow your homestead classification to remain intact during your absence. For more information contact the Assessing Department at 763-531-1217 between 8 am and 3:30 pm weekdays.

EMERALD ASH BORER THREATENS FOREST SUSTAINABILITY

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) infestation was confirmed last year near the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. Responsible for killing more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan alone, this extremely destructive invasive pest threatens all ash trees in Minnesota. Ash trees are a major component of our community and state forests.

The metallic-green adult beetles (7-14 mm. long) lay eggs on ash tree bark which hatch into larvae that bore into the tree. The larvae then tunnel in the phloem layer (between bark and wood), disrupting vascular flow, and killing the tree. Signs of the infestation include canopy dieback, suckering, bark cracking, and woodpecker activity. Small D-shaped exit holes may be noticed in the bark and are diagnostic. Since most of these symptoms can be caused by other problems, conclusive ID, particularly early on, is problematic. We need your trained eyes on the ash trees to minimize the damage and to slow the spread of EAB.

Excellent information on EAB and state management regulation efforts, as well as landowner options are provided at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at (www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab). This and other relevant websites are linked on the City Forestry page of the City's website. Please familiarize yourself with the basics, help us monitor your yard and your neighborhood, and let us know what you find. Thanks for your partnership in protecting our community forest.

NEW STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS FOR YARD WASTE

As of January 1, 2010, residents in the Twin Cities area, who bag their yard waste, will be required to put their waste out for pick up in compostable bags using either paper bags or compostable plastic bags. This will affect residents in Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties. (City of Minneapolis residents are not required to use compostable bags until January 1, 2013. Dakota County has been requiring compostable bags for years.)

This rule will not impact your service if you currently put your yard waste or other compostable waste in a can.

Yard Waste Disposal Options for Robbinsdale Residents:

- Continue to use own containers (32-gallon, 40 lb. limit)
- Use reusable polywoven yard waste bags
- Use compostable bags or kraft paper yard waste bags
- Bundle branches (must be under 3 inches in diameter, under 30 lbs. and under 5 feet in length).

Need A Passport, License Tabs, or Fishing License?

Robbinsdale's Motor Vehicle Office at City Hall offers these services & more!

*Monday, Wednesday, & Friday—8 am to 4:30 pm;

*Tuesday & Thursday—8 am to 6 pm;

*1st & 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 am to 12 Noon (excluding some holiday weekends)

Call 763-535-8133 for more information.

City Council Update In an effort to better inform the citizens of Robbinsdale, this section contains information on ordinances passed in 2009 by the City Council. For further information, you may contact the City Clerk at 763-531-1252.

09-01: An Ordinance Amending Section 800.07 Having to do with Bonds (to bring the City's code into compliance with current practice and intent—Adopted 4-07-09)

09-02: An Ordinance Amending the Robbinsdale City Code Adopting by Reference the Official Statutes, Codes, Regulations, and Ordinances (Adopted 8-03-09)

09-03: An Ordinance Amending the Robbinsdale Zoning Ordinance References of Surety Bonds to Performance Bonds and Adding Clarification (Adopted 8-03-09)

09-04: An Ordinance adding City Code Section 800.25 Street Closure for Neighborhood/Community Events (Adopted 8-18-09)

09-05: An Ordinance Amending City Code to Streamline the Issuance of Various Licenses (Adopted 10-06-09)

09-06: An Ordinance for Protecting the Planning Process and the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Residents of the City, Placing a Moratorium on Development in Certain Areas of the City of Robbinsdale (Relating to Downtown Development-Adopted 10-06-09)

09-07: An Ordinance Amending City Code Section 320.05 to Adjust the Representation on the Senior Commission (Adopted 12-01-09)

09-08: An Ordinance Rezoning 4123-25 Welcome Ave N, 3108-3110 and 3112-14 Grimes Ave N, and 4100 Perry Ave N from the R-2 District to the R-1 District (Adopted 12-01-09)

09-09: An Ordinance Amending Chapter XII of the Robbinsdale City Code (Traffic, Motor Vehicles and other Vehicles) Adding Section Regulating Idling of Diesel Engine Powered Commercial Motor Vehicles Parked on or Adjacent to Park Property (Adopted 12-01-09)



REMINDER: PET ORDINANCE



City Ordinance requires that a person having the custody or control of a dog or cat may not permit the animal to be on a street, public park, school grounds or public place in the city without being effectively restrained by chain or leash and must clean up any feces of the animal and dispose of such feces in a sanitary manner.

COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

CITY COUNCIL	MONTHLY MEETINGS	Location
Regular Meetings	1st & 3rd Tuesdays*	7pm City Hall
Advisory Commissions		
Charter	Subject to Call	7 pm City Hall
Human Rights	4 th Thursday bi-monthly	7 pm City Hall
Parks, Recreation & Forestry	4 th Tuesday (Except July & Dec)	7 pm Location TBD
Planning	3 rd Thursday	7 pm City Hall
Senior	2 nd Monday (Except June, July Aug)	9:30 am City Hall
Economic Development Authority (REDA)	2 nd Tuesday	7 pm City Hall
Crime Prevention Association	1 st Wednesday March, May, Sept, Nov	7 pm Police/Fire Building

*Due to National Night Out, the first meeting in August will be held Monday, August 2; and due to Election Day, the first City Council meeting in November will be held on Wednesday, November 3.

CITY OF ROBBINSDALE 4100 Lakeview Avenue North Robbinsdale, MN 55422-1898

CITY COUNCIL Phone & e-mail
Mike Holtz, Mayor 763-537-0935, mholtz@diversifiedadjustment.com
Bill Blonigan, Ward 1 763-535-5576, bloniganlaw@gmail.com
Dan Rogan, Ward 2 763-533-6874, danrogan@gmail.com
George Selman, Ward 3 763-533-2661, thirdwardgeorge@aol.com
Tom Mathias, Ward 4 763-529-7652, TomInWard4@comcast.net
Marcia Glick, City Manager 763-531-1258, mglick@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us

ROBBINSDALE SERVICE DIRECTORY

Emergency (Police & Fire) 911
Police Administration 763-531-1220
City Hall 763-537-4534
Motor Vehicle License Center 763-535-8133
Recreation 763-531-1278
Building Inspections 763-531-1268
City Forester 763-531-1273

The City newsletter is published twice per year to keep residents informed about the City. E-mail comments and questions about the publication to: webmaster@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.